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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

6449 7590 03/26/2010
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C.
1425 K STREET, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER	
FRED, RUSSELL WARREN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2128
DATE MAILED: 03/26/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/07/486 11/07/2000

Jack D. Pippin

3752-104

9610

TITLE OF INVENTION: TEMPERATURE-BASED CLOCK FREQUENCY CONTROLLER APPARATUS AND METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	06/28/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

**Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

6449 7590 03/26/2010

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C.
1425 K STREET, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE-FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	06/28/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
FREJD, RUSSELL WARREN	2128	703-014000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/147; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2

3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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FRED, RUSSELL WARREN

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 594 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 594 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/707,486

Examiner

Russell Frejd

Applicant(s)

PIPPIN, JACK D.

Art Unit

2128

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment and IDS received 12/23/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7-19, 22-24, 27-30, 32 and 34-40.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/23/09
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Russell Frejd/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2128

Allowance of Application #09/707,486

1. The following communication is in response to applicant's amendment received 23-December-2009. Claims 1-4, 7-19, 22-24, 27-30, 32, and 34-40 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, 20, 21, 25, 26, 31, and 33 are canceled. Further, the specific arguments as presented in applicant's present response, on pages 12-14, are considered persuasive, and therefore the previously applied 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 rejections have been withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2.1 In the Specification:

Page 1, under the title "Cross-Reference to Related Applications":

Line 2 Change "June 8, 1998" to --June 8, 1998, now abandoned,--.

Line 4 Change "1993, all" to --1993, now abandoned, all--.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

3.1 Claims 1-4, 7-19, 22-24, 27-30, 32, and 34-40 are considered allowable, since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP § 2111.01, none of the references

of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claims nos. 1, 2, 10, 16, 17, 27, 28, 32, 34-36, and 38, wherein:

Claims 1 and 16 disclose a register to store a threshold temperature value; a thermal sensor; and clock adjustment logic to decrease a clock frequency in response to the thermal sensor indicating that the threshold temperature value has been exceeded, the clock adjustment logic further to increase the clock frequency in response to passage of a predetermined amount of time following the decrease in clock frequency [defined at p. 6, Ins. 4-15].

Claim 2 further includes limitations for increasing the clock frequency in response to one of passage of a predetermined amount of time following the decrease in clock frequency and the thermal sensor indicating that the sensed temperature is less than the threshold temperature value; and threshold adjustment logic to increase the threshold temperature value to a new threshold temperature value in response to the thermal sensor indicating that the threshold temperature value has been exceeded.

Claim 10 includes the features of claim 1, with additional limitations wherein the clock frequency is increased in response to one of passage of a predetermined amount of time following the decrease in clock frequency and the thermal sensor indicating that the sensed temperature is less than the threshold temperature value, and the thermal sensor comprises a plurality of thermal sensors placed across the integrated circuit and an averaging mechanism to calculate an average temperature from the plurality of thermal sensors.

Claim 17 includes the features of claim 1, and further includes increasing the threshold temperature value to a new threshold temperature value in response to the sensed temperature exceeding the threshold temperature value.

Claims 27, 35 and 36 disclose a programmable thermal sensor to receive the register value and generate a first interrupt signal in response to an internal microprocessor

temperature exceeding the threshold temperature corresponding to the register value; phase locked loop clock circuitry for providing a clock signal for the microprocessor; a processor unit coupled to the clock circuitry, which executes instructions to reduce a frequency of the clock signal in response to the first interrupt signal; and a fail-safe thermal sensor generating a fail-safe interrupt signal if the microprocessor temperature exceeds a fail-safe threshold temperature, wherein the processor unit is halted in response to the fail-safe interrupt signal [defined p. 6, lns. 11-20].

Claim 28 includes the limitations of claim 27, and further discloses that the thermal sensor comprises: a current source; a voltage reference coupled to the current source to provide a bandgap reference voltage, wherein the bandgap reference voltage is substantially constant over a range of temperatures; programmable circuitry providing an output voltage varying with the microprocessor temperature in accordance with the register value; and a comparator, wherein the comparator generates the first interrupt signal if a difference between the output voltage and the bandgap reference voltage indicates that the threshold temperature has been exceeded.

Claim 32 includes the features of claim 27, and additional limitations wherein the clock circuitry includes a frequency divider to provide the clock signal, the frequency divider reducing a frequency of the clock signal in response to the first interrupt signal, and wherein the processor unit executes instructions to provide closed loop control of the microprocessor clock frequency, thereby automatically reducing the temperature when overheating occurs.

Claim 34 includes the features of claim 27, with the additional limitation wherein the processor unit programs the register with another register value corresponding to another threshold temperature in response to the first interrupt signal.

Claim 38 substantially includes the features of claims 27 and 28, while further disclosing generating an interrupt signal comprises generating the interrupt signal if a difference between the output voltage and the bandgap reference voltage indicates that the first threshold temperature level has been exceeded.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 7-9, 11-15, 18, 19, 22-24, 29, 30, 37, 39, and 40 are deemed allowable as depending either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 2, 10, 16, 17, 28, and 35.

3.2 The instant application is directed to a non-obvious improvement over the information described in the article authored by Nakagawa, entitled Power Control Circuit, which discloses a power control circuit which effectively controls power generated according to changes in the ambient temperature. Nakagawa does not disclose at least the feature wherein the clock adjustment logic increases the clock frequency in response to passage of a predetermined amount of time following the decrease in clock frequency.

3.3 The art of record, either individually or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the specific arrangement of elements in the same combination as now required by the amended claims. In view of the foregoing, the claims of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior art.

3.4 Process claims 16, 17, 35, 36, and 38 were also analyzed under 35 USC 101. It is recognized that, in order to be statutory, a process claim must be, either explicitly or inherently: 1) tied to a particular machine or apparatus, or 2) transform a particular article into a different

state or thing. *In re Bilski*, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (2008). It is also recognized that a general purpose computer may be converted into a particular computer through the operation of software on the computer. *In re Alappat*, 31 USPQ2d 1545 (1994). For the instant invention, each of the claims noted above explicitly claim a step for storing a threshold temperature value in a register of an integrated circuit. As such, the process is tied to a particular machine, thus meeting the *Bilski* test.

Response Guidelines

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

4.1 Any response to the Examiner in regard to this allowance should be

directed to: Russell Frejd, telephone number (571) 272-3779, Monday-Friday from 0530 to 1400 ET, **or** the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah, telephone number (571) 272-2279. Inquires of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group Receptionist (571) 272-2100.

mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to: (571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

/Russell Frejd/
Primary Examiner AU 2128